

DCS No: 99999880303  
Date: March 14, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-88-24B

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:  
Albert Einstein Medical Center  
New York, New York  
(Agreement State Licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

Subject: WORKER INGESTION OF P-32

This is to update PNO-I-88-24 and 24A regarding the ingestion of P-32 by a female graduate student. As previously reported, urine samples were begun on the day the uptake was detected. However, results were erratic and no firm conclusion could be drawn regarding the extent of the original uptake. On Friday, March 11, a whole body count was performed at New York University. The results indicated that the amount of P-32 remaining in the body was around 130 microcuries. Assuming the uptake occurred on February 29, the day before the uptake was detected, the estimated total uptake was in the range of 400 microcuries. If the uptake occurred shortly after the previous background check on the student (February 17) the total uptake could have been as high as 800 microcuries. Further whole body counts are anticipated to try to refine these estimates. The opinion of the NYU staff is that the uptake was the result of a very freak accident or the intentional administration of the isotope to the student, the latter being the most likely.

The city Department of Health is considering a number of enforcement options in this case and have attempted to involve police authorities, however, neither the individual nor the University will file a complaint with the authorities.

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Region I Form 83  
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